REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 and 21-30 are pending in this application. Claim 20 is canceled by the present response without prejudice. Claims 5-10, 13-18, and 22-33 stand withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 11, 12, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0030760 to Ohta. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ohta in view of U.S. patent 6,882,438 to Kanaya. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0167504 to Meier et al. (herein "Meier"). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0057773 to Fujise et al. (herein "Fujise").

Addressing the rejection of Claims 1, 11, 12, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ohta, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Initially, applicants note independent claims 1 and 19 are amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein.

Independent claim 1 now further clarifies that the sender registering unit stores "a sender list including a plurality of sender identifiers related to a sender group and including a relevant sender identifier of the image file". Independent claim 1 also now further clarifies that "the image processing device is configured to read the relevant sender identifier from the sender list stored by the sender registering unit, based on an input sender identifier *that is input by an operator*" (emphasis added). That subject matter is fully supported by the original specification for example at page 16, lines 7-11, Figure 2, step 5, Figure 3, steps S17-S20, and Figure 4, step S39. Independent claim 19 now additionally similar recites "wherein the image processing device is configured to read a relevant personal information item from among the plurality of personal information items stored by the personal information

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registering unit, based on an input personal identifier that is input by an operation". Claim 11 is amended by the present response to now be a dependent claim dependent on independent claim 19. Each of independent claims 1 and 19, and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to distinguish over Ohta.

Ohta discloses an internet facsimile gateway apparatus 20a having a G3 facsimile communications controller 21 that utilizes a registration table 21c in which the calling facsimile number and the called facsimile number are stored, see for example Figures 1 and 2 in Ohta. In Ohta the calling facsimile number is notified from the PSTN to the internet facsimile gateway apparatus 20a through the communication service provided by a communication service provider. In Ohta the notification to the calling facsimile number is performed through the communication device. The above operation is clear from Ohta at, for example, page 3, prenumbered paragraph [0028].

In the image processing device such as recited in independent claims 1 and 19 a sender registering unit or personnel information registering unit stores either a sender list or a plurality of personal information items related to a sender group. Further, with transmitting the image file the claimed image processing device also transmits either relevant sender identifier or relevant personal information, based on an input sender identifier or personal identifier input by an operator.

With the claimed structure, the image processing device such as recited in each of independent claims 1 and 19 can send image data such that a receiver that receives the image file can clearly recognize the person or group who transmitted the image file, by virtue of the image file being provided with the relevant sender identifier or relevant personal information. With such a structure it is unnecessary for the claimed image processing device to transmit a cover page attached to an image file. The structure and benefits realized in the claimed invention are contrary to the operation in Ohta.

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As recognized in the Office Action, <u>Ohta</u> discloses a transmitting unit in Figure 2 that transmits an image file together with a stored sender identifier (sender ID sent in phase B of the fax protocol).[1] However, that stored sender identifier transmitted in <u>Ohta</u> is *not* input by a user, and does not indicate a sender identifier or a personal information identifier. In <u>Ohta</u> the content of the sender ID is typically a fax number according to a fax protocol standard. Alternatively the content of the sender ID may be a company name or a department name according to the fax protocol standard. Moreover, <u>Ohta</u> utilizes a communication controller 21 using a registration table 21c in which the calling facsimile number and the called facsimile number can be stored.

However, with such a structure in <u>Ohta</u> the fax number does not identify a person who sends an image file to an external device. For example, in <u>Ohta</u> if a plurality of persons exist in a company and use the same facsimile machine, a receiver who receives the image fax via the fax machine will not know with any certainty who transmitted the image file, but will only know the fax number from which the image file came from. Thereby, in such a system in <u>Ohta</u> it becomes necessary to transmit an image file together with a cover page containing a sender's name or personal information that can be recognized by a receiver.

In contrast to <u>Ohta</u>, in the claimed invention the sender identifier or personal information is ***input by an operator and is selected from plural sender identifiers or personal information***. Such structures are not disclosed or suggested in the device of <u>Ohta</u>.

Thereby, each of independent claims 1 and 19, and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to clearly distinguish over <u>Ohta</u>.

Addressing now the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Ohta</u> in view of <u>Kanaya</u>, that rejection is also traversed by the present response.

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[1] Office Action of November 4, 2005, page 3.

Claim 2 is amended similarly as in independent claim 1 noted above. The deficiencies of Ohta with respect to such subject matter is discussed above, and applicants further respectfully submit Kanaya does not provide any disclosure that could cure the above-noted deficiencies of Ohta.

Addressing now the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Meier, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Claim 3 is amended by the present response similarly as in independent claim 1 noted above, but recites storing plural "scan conditions" and having an operator select an input scan condition.

Meier is not even directed to a similar device as claimed. Meier is directed to a bar code reading device having an image processing mode. However, Meier does not disclose or suggest any operation or structure of storing plural scan conditions and transmitting a relevant scan condition identifier based *on an input by an operator*. In that respect applicants note that in claim 3 a scan condition is transmitted together with an image file. The outstanding Office Action appears to reference the second data field 312 noted in paragraph [0068] in Meier to meet that limitation.[2] However, in that respect applicants note that second data field 312 merely indicates an operating parameter such as pixel resolution. Such a scan condition is not part of a list including a plurality of scan conditions and is clearly not selected based on an input by an operator. Thus, Meier does not disclose anything corresponding to the claimed "plurality of scan conditions" that is read "based on an input scan condition identifier that is input by an operator" as recited in claim 3. Thus, claim 3 is believed to clearly distinguish over Meier.

Addressing now the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Fujise, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

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[2] Office Action of November 4, 2005, page 8, penultimate paragraph.

Claim 4 is amended similarly as in independent claim 1 noted above, and is believed to also distinguish over the applied art to <u>Fujise</u>.

<u>Fujise</u> also does not disclose or suggest storing a "sender list including a plurality of sender identifiers", storing "a subject list including a plurality of image subject identifiers", and storing "a scan condition list including a plurality of scan conditions". Further, an input identifier by an operator reads at least one of the relevant sender identifier, the relevant subject identifier, and the relevant scan condition identifier, and transmits such with an image file. <u>Fujise</u> does not disclose any similar subject matter.

<u>Fujise</u> does disclose in Figure 16 the transmission of a header. However, that header information is not based on any input by an operator and does not include data selected from a sender list including a plurality of sender identifiers, a subject list including a plurality of image subject identifiers, and a scan condition list including a plurality of scan conditions. In <u>Fujise</u> as shown in Figure 16 the header information is all data directly generated by the CPU 102, see all <u>Fujise</u> at paragraph [0143].

In such ways, <u>Fujise</u> does not disclose features recited in amended independent claim 4.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the

present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested

that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

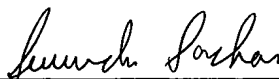OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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